

**CITY OF PALMETTO**  
**CITY COMMISSION WORKSHOP MEETING**  
**August 20, 2013**  
**4:30 PM**

Elected Officials Present:

Shirley Groover Bryant, Mayor  
Tambra Varnadore, Vice Mayor, Commissioner, Ward 2  
Tamara Cornwell, Commissioner-at-Large 2  
Jonathan Davis, Commissioner-at-Large 1  
Charles Smith, Commissioner, Ward 1  
Brian Williams, Commissioner, Ward 3

Staff Present:

Jeff Burton, CRA Director  
Jim Freeman, City Clerk  
Allen Tusing, Public Works Director  
Scott Tyler, Deputy Chief of Police  
Amber Foley, Assistant City Clerk

PROCLAMATION: Mayor Bryant presented the National Breastfeeding Month proclamation to Robin and Emma Bryant and the Healthy Start Coalition of Manatee County Team.

1. DISCUSSION: FISCAL YEAR 2013-2014 BUDGET

Mr. Freeman provided Commission with Version #3 of the budget that includes a change summary on page 5 that summarizes all changes made since the second version of the budget. The significant changes made were:

- Since Version #2, the CRA removed reimbursement for Code Enforcement. This department's expenses will be funded with current revenues and funds from the General Fund.
- There were approximately \$30,000 in capital items that were being funded out of Reserves in Version #2; these items will now be funded out of current year revenues in the General Fund.
- Items were removed from Water and Sewer to make it balanced. If any increase in utilities is approved in the future, a budget amendment will be brought forward to add those items back in.
- Currently there are three meter readers in the City. One is entering retirement and his position will not be filled due to the more efficient telemetry meters.
- Reduced storm water subsidy by about \$45,000.

There is approximately a \$300,000 deficit remaining in the CRA budget. This should be balanced by the joint meeting with the CRA Advisory Board and Commission that is scheduled for August 26<sup>th</sup>.

Staff is currently working on the CIP budget. Commission should receive this in September. Mr. Freeman suggested waiting until after Commission has reviewed and approved any utility rate study to discuss the CIP budget; he anticipates it being on an agenda in October.

Mayor Bryant exited the meeting at 4:50 p.m.

Commissioner Smith opined that the salary for the Mayor should be increased. He is proposing that it be increased to \$45,000 for the coming fiscal year. Commissioner Williams agreed with Commissioner Smith on an increase in salary for the Mayor.

Commissioner Williams stated that the street striping budget should be increased. He said that all of 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue needs to be re-striped.

Mayor Bryant returned to the meeting at 5:08 p.m.

Commissioner Smith would like to see one new dispatcher position added to the budget for the Police Department.

Deputy Chief Tyler explained that currently there are six dispatchers on staff, with one to retire within the following year. He would like to see at least one dispatcher position added in the Police budget. Discussion ensued regarding the need for another dispatch position. Commissioner Williams suggested removing the new vehicles from the Police budget and using those dollars to fund two dispatch positions. Mr. Freeman will work with Finance to find different options to put one full-time dispatch position back into the budget for the Police Department.

Commissioner Varnadore would like to have further discussion on an agenda regarding the Mayor's salary and yearly increases.

Mayor Bryant suggested that staff discuss different options to fund a dispatch position as well as work on the other issues that were raised tonight and bring forward those changes at the next budget meeting.

Mayor Bryant adjourned the meeting at 5:45 p.m.

Minutes approved: September 9, 2013

*James R. Freeman*

James R. Freeman  
City Clerk